

Appl. No. 09/603,184
Amdt. Dated December 21, 2006
Reply to final Office Action of October 24, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0211
Customer No.: 26021

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 21 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 1 is being amended to improve its form. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 3 which begins at the bottom of page 2 of the final Office Action, claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,690,805 of Tsuji et al. In paragraph 5 which begins at the top of page 6 of the final Office Action, claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,690,805 of Tsuji et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendment being made to claim 1. Claim 1 is the only independent claim in the application.

As previously pointed out by applicant, the present invention utilizes a feature which is not shown or suggested by the Tsuji reference. In accordance with the present invention, an LPF for blocking a sub-signal and a pilot signal in a high-frequency band of the input audio signal passes only a main signal of the input audio signal. The main signal being passed is passed in its entirety to the exclusion of the sub-signal and the pilot signal. The main signal is not removed by the LPF. Stated another way, the entirety of the main signal is passed through the LPF. This feature is not shown or suggested by Tsuji in which the part of the main signal is removed by the LPF 13.

As amended herein, claim 1 defines a noise cancel circuit for removing noise components in an input audio signal. It is comprised of "an LPF for blocking a sub-signal and a pilot signal in a high-frequency band of the input audio signal and passing only a main signal of the input audio signal." As amended herein, claim 1 further recites "the main signal being passed in its entirety to the exclusion of the

Appl. No. 09/603,184
Amdt. Dated December 21, 2006
Reply to final Office Action of October 24, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0211
Customer No.: 26021

sub-signal and the pilot signal". As noted above, the Tsuji reference neither discloses nor suggests such feature. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over such reference. Claims 2-9 and 11-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain all of the limitations thereof, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the reference.

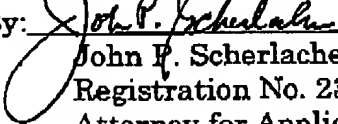
Applicant is including herewith an IDS (Information Disclosure Statement) to make of record Japanese Publication JP-A-Sho61-296825 which was recently cited in the corresponding Japanese application.

In conclusion, claims 1-9 and 11-13 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 21, 2006

By: 
John P. Scherlacher
Registration No. 23,009
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: 310.785.4600
Fax: 310.785.4601